What is claimed is:

~~1. An output print produced by an image processing apparatus,~~ comprising:

(a) a substrate having an image thereon; and

(b) a machine readable marking coupled to said substrate, wherein said machine readable marking identifies a data source.

2. An output print produced by an image processing apparatus, comprising:

(a) a substrate having an image thereon; and

(b) a machine readable marking coupled to said substrate, wherein said machine readable marking identifies at least one processing parameter employed by the image processing apparatus to process the image provided by the data source.

3. An output print produced by an image processing apparatus, comprising:

(a) a substrate having an image thereon; and

(b) a machine readable marking coupled to said substrate, wherein said machine readable marking identifies a data source used to provide the image and identifies at least one processing parameter employed by the image processing apparatus to process the image provided by the data source.

4. An output print produced by an image processing apparatus, comprising:

(a) a substrate having an image thereon;

(b) a first machine-readable marking coupled to said substrate, wherein said first machine-readable marking identifies a data source used to provide the image; and

(c) a second machine-readable marking coupled to said substrate, wherein said second machine-readable marking identifies at least one processing

parameter employed by the image processing apparatus to process the image provided by the data source.

5. The output print of claim 4, wherein said first machine-readable marking comprises identifying encoding to identify the data source.

6. The output print of claim 4, wherein said second machine-readable marking comprises identifying encoding to identify the at least one processing parameter.

7. The output print of claim 4, wherein said second machine-readable marking comprises identifying encoding to identify the at least one processing parameter having data identifying a prepress processing mechanism.

8. The output print of claim 4, wherein said first machine-readable marking is human-readable.

9. The output print of claim 4, wherein said second machine-readable marking is human-readable.

10. The output print of claim 4, wherein said first machine-readable marking comprises a bar code.

11. The output print of claim 4, wherein said second machine-readable marking comprises a bar code.

12. The output print of claim 4, wherein said first machine-readable marking is invisible to the unaided eye.

13. The output print of claim 4, further comprising a third machine-readable marking coupled to said substrate, wherein said third machine-readable marking identifies at least one physical characteristic of said substrate.

14. The output print of claim 13, wherein said third machine-readable marking comprises identifying encoding based on the at least one physical characteristic.

15. The output print of claim 13, wherein said third machine-readable marking is human readable.

16. The output print of claim 13, wherein said third machine-readable marking comprises a bar code.

17. The output print of claim 13, wherein said third machine-readable marking comprises identifying encoding based on the at least one physical characteristic identifies a finishing mechanism.

18. The output print of claim 17, wherein said finishing mechanism is a laminator.

19. The output print of claim 13, wherein said third machine-readable marking is printed onto the output print.

20. The output print of claim 13, wherein said third machine-readable marking is affixed to the output print.

21. The output print of claim 4, wherein said first machine-readable marking is printed onto said substrate.

22. The output print of claim 4, wherein said first machine-readable marking is affixed to said substrate.

23. The output print of claim 4, wherein said second machine-readable marking is printed onto said substrate.

24. The output print of claim 4, wherein said second machine-readable marking is affixed to the output print.

25. A machine-readable marking on an output print having an image thereon produced by an image processing apparatus, said marking comprising encoded metadata describing the image, said metadata including an identifier defining a data source used to provide the image on the output print.

26. A machine-readable marking on an output print having an image thereon produced by an image processing apparatus, said marking comprising encoded metadata describing the image, said metadata including an identifier defining a processing operation used to process the image on the output print.

27. A machine-readable marking on an output print having an image thereon produced by an image processing apparatus, said marking comprising encoded metadata describing the image, said metadata including an identifier defining a data source used to provide the image on the output print and defining a processing operation used to process the image on the output print.

28. A machine-readable marking on an output print having an image thereon produced by an image processing apparatus, said marking comprising encoded metadata describing the image, said metadata including:

(a) a first identifier defining a data source used to provide the image on the output print;

(b) a second identifier defining a processing operation used to process the image on the output print.

29. The machine-readable marking of claim 28, wherein said marking is human-readable.

30. The machine-readable marking of claim 28, wherein said first identifier is a bar code.

31. A method for coupling, to an output print, metadata describing an image generated from a data source, the method comprising the step of marking a machine-readable encoding on the output print, the encoding identifying the data source.

32. A method for coupling, to an output print, metadata describing an image generated from a data source, the method comprising the step of marking a machine-readable encoding on the output print, the encoding defining a processing operation used to process the image on the output print.

33. A method for coupling, to an output print, metadata describing an image generated from a data source, the method comprising the step of marking a machine-readable encoding on the output print, the encoding identifying the data source and defining a processing operation used to process the image on the output print.

34. A method for coupling, to an output print, metadata describing an image generated from a data source, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) marking a first machine-readable encoding on the output print, the encoding identifying said data source;

(b) marking a second machine-readable encoding on the output print, the encoding defining a processing operation used to process the image on the output print.

35. The method of claim 34 wherein the step of marking a first machine-readable encoding comprises the step of generating a hash function value.

36. The method of claim 34 wherein the step of marking a first machine-readable encoding comprises the step of generating a unique digital signature.

37. The method of claim 34 wherein the step of marking a second machine-readable encoding further comprises the step of generating a unique hash function value.

38. A method for marking identification data on an output print produced from a data source by an image processing apparatus, the method comprising the step of marking a machine-readable encoding that identifies the data source.

39. A method for marking processing data on an output print produced from a data source by an image processing apparatus, the method comprising the step of marking a machine-readable encoding that identifies at least one processing parameter used by the image processing apparatus to process the output print from the data source.

40

41. A method for marking identification and processing data on an output print produced from a data source by an image processing apparatus, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) marking a first machine-readable encoding that identifies the data source;

(b) marking a second machine-readable encoding that identifies at least one processing parameter used by the image processing apparatus to process the output print from said data source.

41

42. For use with an image processing apparatus, a method for producing a first output print from a data source, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) obtaining, from a machine-readable marking on a second output print, a processing parameter for use by the image processing apparatus;

(b) generating a setup file having the processing parameter by using data obtained from the machine-readable marking; and

(c) providing the setup file to the imaging processing apparatus.

42

43. The method of step 42 wherein the step of obtaining a processing parameter comprises the step of reading the machine-readable marking using a bar code reader.

43

44. An image processing system for printing image data on a first output print, wherein the first output print is substantially identical to a second output print , said image processing system comprising:

(a) a first printer for providing the second output print;

(b) a reader for obtaining setup data coupled to said first output print; and

(c) a second printer for accepting the image data as input and printing the first output print, said first printer capable of printing based on the setup data.

44

45. The image processing system of claim 44, further comprising a transmission link that connects said first printer with said second printer.

45

46. The image processing system of claim 44, wherein said reader is a scanner.

46

47. A remote proofing system, comprising:

(a) a first printer for printing a first output print having an image thereon, wherein a marking containing metadata describing the image is coupled to said first output print;

(b) a reader for scanning the marking, said reader capable of providing said metadata in a metadata file;

~~(c) a second printer for printing a second output print, wherein said~~ second printer accepts said metadata ~~file from~~ said reader, said metadata file conditioning the operation of said second printer so that the second output print is ~~substantially~~ identical in appearance ~~to said first output print.~~